

How Napoleon Made an Empire by the Stroke of a Pen

THE ST. LOUIS
REPUBLIC
WORLD'S FAIR



WHEN NAPOLEON SOLD LOUISIANA TO THE UNITED STATES, HE MADE THIS PROPHETIC STATEMENT: "THIS ACCESSION OF TERRITORY STRENGTHENS FOREVER THE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES. I HAVE GIVEN TO ENGLAND A MARITIME RIVAL THAT WILL SOONER OR LATER HUMBLE HER PRIDE."

M. JULES CAMBON, French Ambassador to the United States, Sends a Good-Will Greeting to the St. Louis World's Fair.

SPECIAL TO THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

Washington, D. C., March 16.—M. Jules Cambon, Ambassador from the Republic of France to the United States, gives to The Sunday Republic staff correspondent in Washington this greeting of good will to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, and an expression of continued French friendship for the people of the United States.

Nothing, perhaps, better shows the degree of favor with which the St. Louis World's Fair is regarded than does the interest which the diplomatic representatives of the great foreign Powers are manifesting. It is a guarantee that the Exposition will be, in reality, a World's Fair, and that the riches of

the Old World will be contributed to its artistic success, while the trend of travel will, two years hence, be directed from Europe toward the Mississippi Valley.

It is particularly appropriate that M. Cambon should be the first Ambassador to publicly express his favorable interest in the Fair. The sale of Louisiana was almost as important to France as its purchase was to the United States. Both nations gained by the transaction, and France, to judge from the expression of its highest representative in this country, feels that the great Napoleon should share with the great Jefferson credit of having taken this "step in the extension of liberty and civilization in the West scarcely less momentous than the earlier establishment of American independence in the East."

This is the greeting of M. Cambon:

BY M. JULES CAMBON,

Ambassador from the Republic of France to the United States.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

"The Louisiana Purchase Exposition to be given in St. Louis in 1903 will be an event of especial gratification and interest to the people of France.

"It is to commemorate an act of universal importance, and one which cemented still more firmly the then strong friendship of America and France.

"The action of Napoleon in ceding to the United States the vast empire west of the Mississippi River was merely supplemental to the help previously given by Frenchmen to Americans in the struggle of the colonies for independence.

"By the transfer of this domain, extending the boundaries of the United States far into the West,

the people of France again proved the sincerity of the friendship they had shown during the revolutionary struggle.

"I am glad that history has shown the cession of the Louisiana Territory to have been a step in the extension of liberty and civilization in the West, scarcely less momentous than the earlier establishment of American independence in the East.

"And I am glad that the friendship of the two nations remains as firmly established at this day as it was when the older France ceded to the young American Republic almost an empire, out of which have been carved States that are now filled with inestimable wealth and resources and peopled by millions of citizens enjoying the blessings of freedom and civilization.

"I wish the Exposition soon to be held unqualified success.

"I am confident the results to flow from it will be of universal benefit."

DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF THE LAST SPANISH GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA NOW RESIDE IN ST. LOUIS.

Pictures of the Original De Lassus of America and
the Latest Generation Are Shown on the Following Page.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

It seems strange, in the face of the preparations that St. Louis is making to commemorate the centennial of her coming beneath the folds of the American flag, that only three generations separate our present era of commercial achievement from the days of Spanish rule, yet two children living in St. Louis to-day, both less than 10 years old, are the links in the chain of history that reaches from the times of French and Spanish dominion, from the supremacy of monarchical government to the triumph of the American political system. These children are the sons of Mr.

Placide Francois Joseph de Lassus of No. 3908 West Belle place, and are the lineal descendants of Don Carlos Dehault de Lassus, the last Spanish Governor of Upper Louisiana, who represented the Spanish crown in the transfer of Louisiana to the French Republic, Friday, March 9, 1804.

By that act Spain suffered the first of a long series of territorial bereavements that finally have reduced her from the first Power in Europe to the fifth rank among nations; by that act, too, were added to the American Union the richest and greatest of its States. Governor Carlos Dehault de Lassus

was born in the town of Bouchaine, France, April, 1764. He was descended from the nobility of France.

When 18 years old he entered the Spanish service as a cadet in the royal regiment of guards, of which the King himself was Colonel.

For his valor in the assault and capture of Fort St. Elmo, in the Pyrenees, he was made Lieutenant Colonel, and a year later was promoted to the command of a battalion of the King's body-guard at Madrid.

About this time his father was forced to take refuge with his family from the horrors of the French Revolution in

Louisiana. On learning of his father's departure for the New World, Colonel de Lassus abandoned his position in Madrid, and on application to the King was transferred to a Lieutenant Colonelcy in the Louisiana Territory, at New Orleans, where he could be useful to his father, and at the same time continue in the Spanish service.

Two years after his arrival in the province the Governor General, Baron de Carondelet, appointed him Civil and Military Commander of the post at New Madrid. In 1799 he was made Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Upper Louisiana, with headquarters at St. Louis.

It was while in this capacity that he delivered to Captain Amos Stoddard, France's agent in the transfer, the old Government House, which stood at what is now the southeast corner of Main and Walnut streets.

After the transfer of Upper Louisiana, Colonel de Lassus assumed command of the Spanish garrison at Pensacola, Fla., and later succeeded Governor de Grand Pre, at Baton Rouge.

In 1811 he married the daughter of Don Gilberto Leonardo, the Spanish Auditor. Their only child, Auguste, was born in New Orleans, July 4, 1813. After the death of his wife, in 1816, Colonel

de Lassus came to St. Louis. He remained here ten years, returning to New Orleans in 1826. He died there May 1, 1842.

His son, Auguste, married a Miss Derbigny, and they continued to reside in New Orleans until after the Civil War. Their son, Placide Francois Joseph de Lassus, born in 1838, was sent to France, when only 9 years old, to receive his education.

In 1868 Auguste de Lassus founded the town eighty-seven miles south of St. Louis, which bears his name. He died in 1888.

On his return to the United States, in 1861, Placide Francois Joseph de Lassus, the grandson of the last Spanish Governor, entered the Confederate Army and served nearly four years in Watson's Battery. In 1865 he came to St. Louis, and two years later married Miss Mary Clark, daughter of Henry L. Clark, and niece of United States Senator Louis V. Boggs.

His two children, Clark Placide, and Leslie Auguste, are, therefore, the direct descendants of the last Spanish Governor of Louisiana, whose famous proclamation of March 9, 1804, substituted the Stars and Stripes for the standard of Spain, and gave to the United States their richest domain and to St. Louis a World's Fair.